

V. REMARKS

In the final Office Action, claims 4-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433) in view of Joeng (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016313) and Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090).

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Joeng discloses a liquid crystal display module that includes a light guide plate and a mold frame. The light guide plate guides light emitted from a lamp unit to a display unit to display an image. The light guide plate has a catching jaw and a projection formed by cutting at least one corner of a first end portion receiving the light from the lamp unit. The projection extends outwardly from a sidewall of the catching jaw and has a thickness thinner than that of the catching jaw. The mold frame receives the light guide plate and the lamp unit. The mold frame has a catching boss and a recess. The catching boss is formed at a first position corresponding to the catching jaw on a bottom surface of the mold frame to engage with the catching jaw to fix the light guide plate in the mold frame. The recess is formed at a second position corresponding to the projection in a sidewall of the mold frame to receive the projection.

Muir discloses a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement, in use, so that,

depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. The game playing arrangement includes a mechanical, symbol carrying arrangement and a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. The display element has a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement and the display screen is a multi-layered structure.

Claims 4-12 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Claim 13 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols, a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, a light guiding plate, a rear holder and a second light source. Claim 13 recites that the front display device includes a liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is seen. Claim 13 further recites that the light guiding plate guides light emitted from a first light source to the liquid crystal display panel, which is disposed between the variable display device and the liquid crystal display panel and has at least one first opening allowing the symbols variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed. Also, claim 13 recites that the rear holder is disposed between the variable display device and the light guiding plate and reflects the light emitted on the light guiding plate to the side of the liquid crystal display panel. Further, claim 13 recites that the rear holder has at least one second opening allowing the symbols variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed and the rear holder comprises a recessed marginal portion to which an antistatic sheet covering the second opening is adhered with a double-sided adhesive tape. Additionally, claim 13 recites that the second light source is provided between the rear holder and the variable display device.

In consideration of the previously cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 13. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art,

alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest an antistatic sheet which is attached to a part of the rear holder with double-sided tape nor does the applied art teach or suggest the light source being divided into first and second light sources. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 14-16 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 13. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 13 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (three month)
 Request for Continued Examination
 Information Disclosure Statement

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